

afghanistan

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Prime Minister

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FM KABUL 221028Z

TO ROUTINE FCO

TELEGRAM NO 281 OF 22 SEPTEMBER 80.

INFO ROUTINE ISLAMABAD, WASHINGTON, NEW DELHI, MOSCOW,
UKDEL NATO AND MODUK (DI4).

INFO SAVING TO UKMIS NEW YORK.

MY TELEGRAM NO 278 : AFGHANISTAN : SITREP.
POLITICAL.

1. THE SOVIET DEFECTOR INSIDE THE AMERICAN EMBASSY DECIDED, AFTER AN INTERVIEW WITH SOVIET AMBASSADOR TABEYEEV, TO WITHDRAW HIS APPLICATION FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM. HE LEFT WITH TABEYEEV ON 21 SEPTEMBER (MY TELEGRAM NO 280 NOT TO ALL REFERS). THE MEASURES OF SURVEILLANCE AND HARASSMENT OF WESTERN EMBASSIES APPEAR TO HAVE CEASED.

2. THE INDIAN AMBASSADOR HAS DELIVERED A LETTER FROM MRS GANDHI TO BABRAK KARMAL. THE KABUL NEW TIMES REPORTS THE

LETTER AS SAYING THAT "...THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT HAS ALWAYS TRIED TO SEE THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN IN ITS NORMAL AND DESIRABLE COURSE..... AND WOULD PURSUE ITS EFFORTS TOWARD OBTAINING A PEACEFUL POLITICAL SOLUTION THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS." THE INDIAN EMBASSY SAY THE LETTER IS IN REPLY TO ONE FROM BABRAK AND CONTAINS NOTHING OF IMPORTANCE.

3. PLANS HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED TO ESTABLISH ELEVEN STATE FARMS IN DIFFERENT PROVINCES COVERING AN AREA OF ABOUT 92,000 ACRES. THEY WILL EMPLOY ABOUT 192 ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF AND 1,176 AGRICULTURAL WORKERS.

4. A COMMISSION HAS BEEN APPOINTED TO ENSURE THERE IS NO FUEL SHORTAGE THIS WINTER. MEASURES ENVISAGED INCLUDE GOVERNMENT CONTROL OF THE STORAGE, DISTRIBUTION AND SALE AT FIXED PRICES OF WOOD AS WELL AS INCREASED PRODUCTION OF COAL.
INTERNAL SECURITY.

5. A LEAFLET PUT OUT BY ONE OF THE RESISTANCE GROUPS GIVES ITS ACCOUNT OF THE PANJSHER OPERATION. IT PREDICTABLY RECOUNTS A MASSIVE SOVIET PUSH WITH THOUSANDS OF SOLDIERS, 500 TANKS AND AIR SUPPORT. IT CLAIMS 1500 SOVIET KILLED OR INJURED, 35 TANKS AND 1 HELICOPTER DESTROYED : ON THE RESISTANCE SIDE, 20 MUJAHIDEEN AND 100 CIVILIANS KILLED AND 208 VILLAGES DESTROYED BY BOMBARDMENT. THE ROAD TO THE PANJSHER HAS BEEN RE-OPENED.

6. IN PAKHITA THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN DROPPING LEAFLETS TELLING THE PEOPLE THEY SHOULD EXPIATE THEIR GUILT IN THE MURDER OF MINISTER OF FRONTIER AFFAIRS, FAIZ MOHAMMED, WHO HAD BEEN SENT TO HELP THEM, AND SHOULD NOW PUNISH OR TURN OVER THOSE WHO WERE DIRECTLY INVOLVED.

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/ 7. THE GOVERNMENT

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7. THE GOVERNMENT HAS REPORTED SUCCESSES AGAINST REBELS IN KUNDUZ, BADAKSHAN, BALKH, FARYAB, SAMANGAN, ZABUL AND HERAT.
8. REPORTS FROM KANDAHAR AND HERAT INDICATE CONTINUED INCIDENTS OF SHEELING AND OF HOUSE SEARCHES, AND DAILY KILLINGS AS A RESULT OF INTERPART STRIFE. THERE ARE REPORTS FROM PARWAN AND SOME OTHER PROVINCES OF AN INCREASE IN BREAK-INSS AND OTHER FORMS OF DISORDER.
9. THE INDIANS HAVE A REPORT FROM THEIR CONSUL AT KANDAHAR OF AN OOUTBREAK OF FIGHTING AT KARZ ON 11 SEPTEMBER BETWEEN AFGHAN AND SOVIET SOLDIERS. THE INCIDENT WAS SAID TO HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY SOVIET MISBEHAVIOUR TOWARDS AFGHAN WOMEN WHILE CONDUCTING HOUSE SEARCHES. SOME 50 AFGHANS WERE KILLED OR INJURED. THERE WERE SOVIET CASUALTIES ALSO BUT NO DETAILS ARE KNOWN. THE REPORT SAYS THAT OTHERWISE KANDAHAR IS SLOWLY BECOMING MORE NORMAL AND SCHOOL ATTENDANCE IS IMPROVING.
10. THE TURKISH MILITARY ATTACHE CLAIMS TO HAVE IT ON GOOD AUTHORITY THAT THERE ARE NOW 3 EAST GERMAN MEDICAL COMPANIES IN AFGHANISTAN, OPERATING FIELD HOSPITALS AT DOSHI, SHINDAND AND KHAIR KHANA.

PRESS DISTRIBUTION.

11. PARAS 9 AND 10 ARE NOT SUITABLE.

FCO PLEASE PASS SAVING TO UKMIS NEW YORK.

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